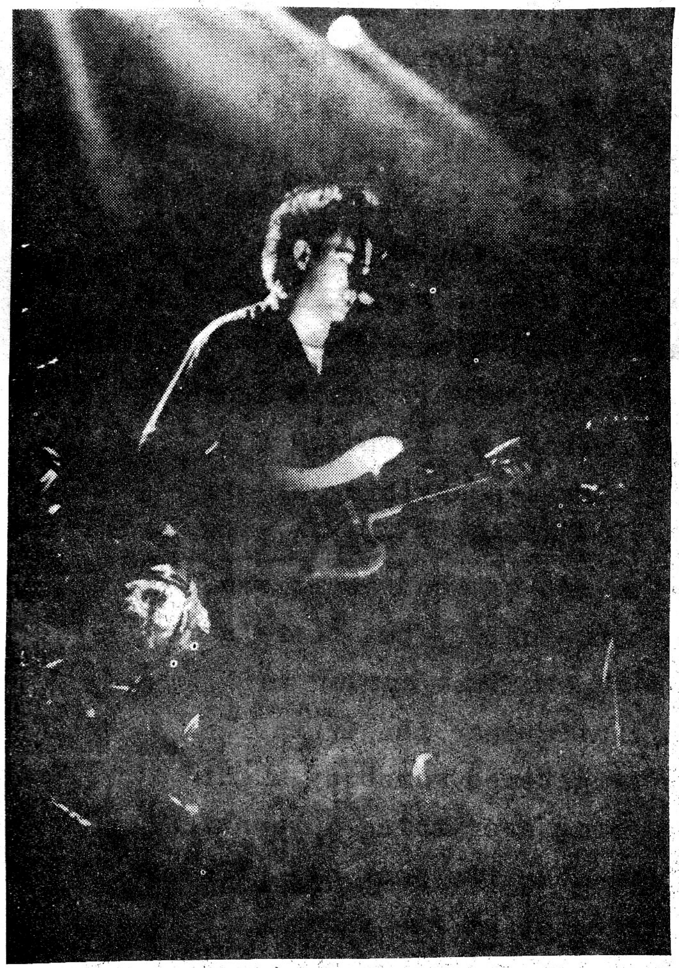
SO WHAT! 1

THE CURE

25p

RUTS DC



NERVOUS SYSTEM

+ 'and also the trees'
+ 'Punk and Disorderly' and 'SLF' album reviews.

CHRON GEN

SO WHAT

HELLO,

Although this is the first issue of"So What" its not the first fanzine I've done as I used to do"New Phenomena" with a friend but we packed that in because we both felt we wanted to do one on our own as our musical tastes grew further apart.The main reason for doing a fanzine,I feel,is to get across your opinions and thoughts to as many people as possible so if you can find any shops that would be willing to sell So What please let me know and also if you've any friends who you think would be interested in buying So What please show them a copy.All of SW is done by me on my own and that's the way it will always be as I haven't got the conviction to print something which I don't agree with that someone else has written,this doesn't mean though I don't want any letters,far from it,so if there's anything at all you want to say(please enclose a stamp if you want a reply).I'm fed up with people saying things like"its not as good as it was in'77 I mean there's no way we can go back to 1977 but there's just as many good,interesting bands about,its just harder to find them that's all.Whenever a record that's near the truth comes out the media ban it as they are frightened somebody might stop and think for a change instead of doing everything automatically. So when the music press slag off punk remember its just one persons opinion.I myself feel Sounds is about the best at the moment, mainly because it features the bands I want to read about.Agreed, a lot of the writers leave a lot to be desired but at least they do write about the groups.Everyone knows if fanzines had as much exposure as the NME etc they would out sell them but I can't ever see that happening because people are too narrow minded to change.Anyway in this issue you've got four interviews plus the usual gig and record reviews.If anyone wants to send any demos or records or fanzines to me I'll be pleased to review them and they wont get ignored I can assure you.

Be What You Are,

Andy

CHRON-GEN

"I'M A MEMBER OF THE CHRONIC GENERATION"
"ITS GETTING ME NOWHERE,IT'S FULL OF COMPLICATIONS"
from"Chronic Generation"

So far Chron-Gen have released four singles including the live EP with the album plus one album.When they first started they were hailed as the saviours of new punk after the album everyone seemed to ignore them.The album admitedly could have been better but a band who can release a single as good as"Reality" have got a bright future in front of them.

INTERVIEW WITH GLYNN BARBER

S.W. What are the band doing at the moment?
Glynn Nothing really,we've just come back from the USA and in a while we're going into the studio to record the second album.
S.W. I've read the tour of America didn't go too well,is this true?
Glynn No,its a load of bollocks really.It went well.What probably happened was one punk out there didn't like us.Most of the nights were quite good and there were just a couple of off nights.The person who wrote that was probably just expressing their opinion anyway.A few places had to cancel like New York because of the agency but they want us back by Christmas.
S.W. What was the USA punk scene like?
Glynn Well really there isn't one its all blown out of proportion except in California.At most of our gigs we had about ten punks the rest were all straights.
S.W. A lot of people seem to go on about how bad the first album was.I didn't think it was that bad but what do you think of it looking back now?

Glynn It wasn't that bad and some of it was all right,The production was a bit bad and some of the songs weren't too good either like"You Make Me Spew"
S.W. Have you written any new songs since the album and are you doing any of them live?
Glynn Yeah we've written quite a few new ones and about half the songs in the set are new ones.
S.W. In what sort of direction is your music going now?
Glynn Its hard to say really,its still punk but there's a bit of reggae and its getting heavier.
S.W. Was"Mindless Few" written about a true experience?
Glynn Well it does happen and I know someone it did happen too although I wasn't there .Its just something I felt really strongly about.
S.W. What do you think of punk now as opposed to'76/'77.
Glynn Its probably just the same.I'm a lot older now so I can get out more but its become a bit narrow minded,not so much the people but the music press.
S.W. Why did Jon Thurlow leave the band?
Glynn We found it hard to play together. The sound he was getting was just wrong and although he's a good guitarist he just had a different style.
S.W. What's he doing now?
Glynn I think he's got another band together
S.W. How has the new guitarist"Floyd" fitted in?
Glynn Very well and we're totally happy with him.
S.W. What do you think of the music press?
Glynn I do read them although I don't like them.I only normally read Sounds and Melody Maker.
S.W. Are you going to put a single out before the second album?

MINDLESS FEW(Barber)

The atmosphere's electric
as the band comes on
The crowd start dancing
But then something goes wrong

There's a lot of pushing
The air becomes tense
A fight breakes out
Through lack of sense

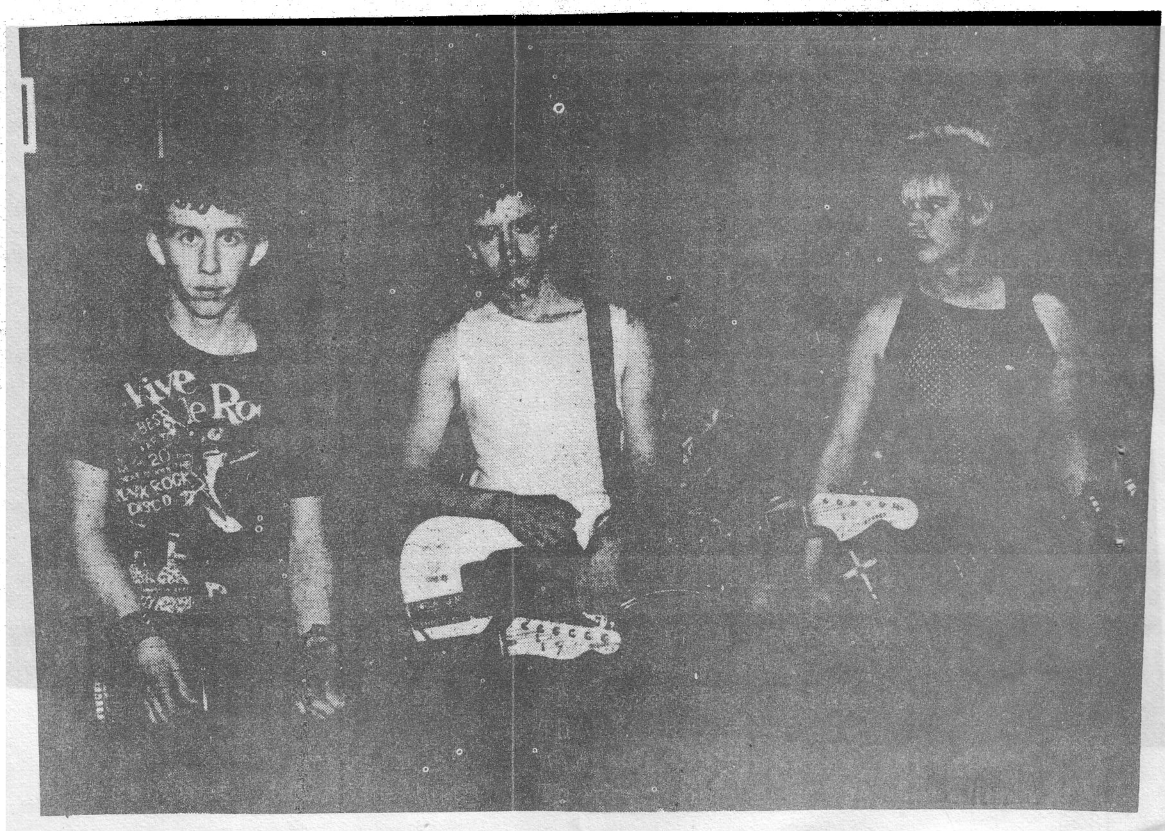
Somewhere in this riot
Lies a man so quiet
He has been punched to the ground
They kicked him while he was down

And with one cold flash
Of an icy blade
He has been put into darkness
As his skin colour fades.

The band stop playing
The fight dies down
A circle round the corpse
There's not a single sound

Goodbye tomorrow
Ain't seen enough of today
Thanks to the mindless few
Big boys-they've struck again

CHRON GEN (before Jon left)



CHRON-IC GEN-ERATION

Glynn Yeah probably we've got quite a few tracks in mind for the single which we laid down in the studio before we went to the states so we can go back to them when we go back in the studio.
S.W. Who or what has most influenced Chron Gen?
Glynn Not one group really just the whole thing of punk really.
S.W. What do you think of bands like Theatre Of Hate and Killing Joke?
Glynn I like them a lot.
S.W. Well a lot of punks slag them off as not being punk
Glynn I don't take any notice of people like that.If anybody tries to be different those people just slag them off.
S.W. Do you go and see many groups?
Glynn Quite a few,there's a local club near me that has quite a few good groups on.In fact I'm going to see the Adicts rehearsing down the road in a minute.
S.W. Were you happy with the sound on the live ep?
Glynn No we hated it.Just after we did that Christmas on Earth gig they mixed it but we got stuck in Watford gap the night they did it.
S.W. What do you think of theCrass/Bushell debate in Sounds?
Glynn Its pathetic and a waste of time.They should just get on with there own things.
S.W. Have you ever thought about doing a video or something similar?
Glynn Yes but we've never got around to doing one,there is a film from the So What tour coming out soon featuring us.
S.W. How do you see the future for punk in general and Chron Gen?
Glynn I can't see bands like Discharge lasting much longer.Punk will never die though but I don't really no what will happen to punk or us but we would never change like Adam and the Ants.
S.W. What are your ambitions?
Glynn Well I'm quite happy at the moment just making a liming out of it but I would like a bit of money as I'm skint.

THANX A LOT GLYNN.

S L F NOW THEN...

Stiff Little Fingers have always been one of my favourite groups,classics like"Alternative Ulster" still rank as some of the best punk stuff ever in my book.The times I've defended"Go For It"to people saying its SLF selling out.I didn't like"Talk Back" but well Now Then.The first track"Falling Down"ranks with Ulster,Johnny Was etc simply because it really is SLF at their best!"Wont Be Told" is okay but nothing special.What's this a cover of"Love Of The Common People" a bit dodgy!"The Price Of Admission" is slow but not too bad with good strong! lyrics."Touch And Go" is a bit more poppy

but struggles to become a song on its own,not just another album track. "Stands To Reason" ends side one and is the second best track on side one.It sums up exactly narrow minded people and those who don't bother to think with lyrics like:

They say our country's on the rocks and Britain is the greatest
They say the blacks get all the jobs.They say that they are lazy
A nice girl wont let you have sex,enjoys it if you make her
The media all twist the facts,I read it in the paper

Side two opens with the single"Bits Of Kids",I like this better every time I hear it.Again it shows peoples reactions,this time the way the older generation talk down to younger people."Welcome To The Whole Week" is about unemployment and again SLF hit the nail right on the head about the boredom of being out of work and how to make the best of it."Big City Night" is haunting and as I listen to it I can see London with all the homeless people,lonely and on their own walking the street late at night."Talk Back" is next.I didn't like it before but as an album track it sounds a lot better.Finally"Is That What You Fought The Law For" finishes the album with a good strong song with some good drumming.

To tell you the truth I was really surprised after Jake saying"this is the album which SLF sell out on" I expected a lot worse.I don't think it will appeal to your average hard core punk but it is a good album and unlike The Clash etc SLF are still going strong and are lyrically at their best, as usual.

THE CURE

The Cure,through all the different stages of their career have impressed me by being about the only band who don't fall into any category and still nobody can put them into a certain type of music(also why Noise wont feature them much because their not punk,electrobop etc).When I spoke to Robert he seemed very depressed with the whole of the music business and from the way he talked it sounded as if he was fed up with The Cure as well,he did say it was just the way he felt at the time I hope so because to lose a band like The Cure would be one of the worse things that could happen at the moment what with Theatre Of Hate packing it in as well.

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT SMITH

S.W. When I spoke to Simon before,you were just adding the final touches to"Pornography",looking back on it now are you happy with the overall effect created on it?
Robert Yes to a certain degree,every recording seems to have its flaws though.I think its better than anything else we've done.
S.W. What gave you the ideas to write the songs and did it take long?

Robert A lot of words were written around Christmas and are about a lot of things.The music was written in three months and was an experiment really.
S.W. Why did you release"Hanging Garden" as a single off of it?
Robert We didn't encourage it.Polydor asked us and we said it was all right but we did get them to reduce the price

S.W. Were you happy with the two live tracks?

Robert No,not really.Its not the actual playing of them but the production.The two tracks I heard were recorded elsewhere were A.Forest and 10.15,we were abroad at the time so we didn't really have much say in it.

S.W. When you last toured in England you carried on playing the big places like the odeons and large halls.Have you given up the idea of playing strange places or are you still looking?

Robert Well we've given up the idea of playing live for at least six months because its really boring.We certainly wont play places like Hammersmith again because its so dull.

S.W. Where did you record"Lament" for Flexipop?

Robert At John Foxxs' studio"The Garden". I played everything on it and Steve Severin mixed it all.Its not very good really and the vocals are just sort of me moaning in the background as there weren't actually any lyrics.

S.W. One criticism of"Pornography" I've seen is that it is so difficult to understand the album in general as with a lot of The Cure's music.Is this a conscious way of doing things or does it just happen that way?

Robert It just happens.The album doesn't really have a meaning,it does to me of course,but I dont think there is such a thing as a meaning,people tend to spend their whole life looking for a meaning. Its just an expression of the mood we're in at the time,as with all the records."Pornography" was an expression of distress.

S.W. What new stuff have you done,as I noticed a new song at the end of a gig on the "Pornography" tour?

Robert We've done about ten demos and will most probably release two singles during the next few months.Most of the songs at the end of the gigs on the"Pornography" tour I just made up as I went along.One new song is called"Lets Go To Bed" and this is our favourite at the moment.

S.W. Have you ever thought of adding another member to the Cure?

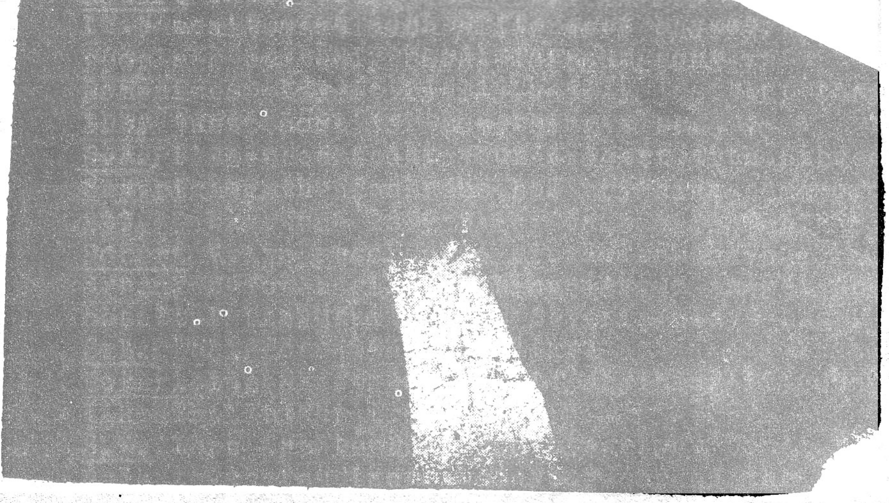
Robert Yeah,in the studio when we record it will involve five or six people.For instance we are using a cello on some stuff so we need someone to play that.

S.W. Were you happy with the last tour or was it just like all the rest?

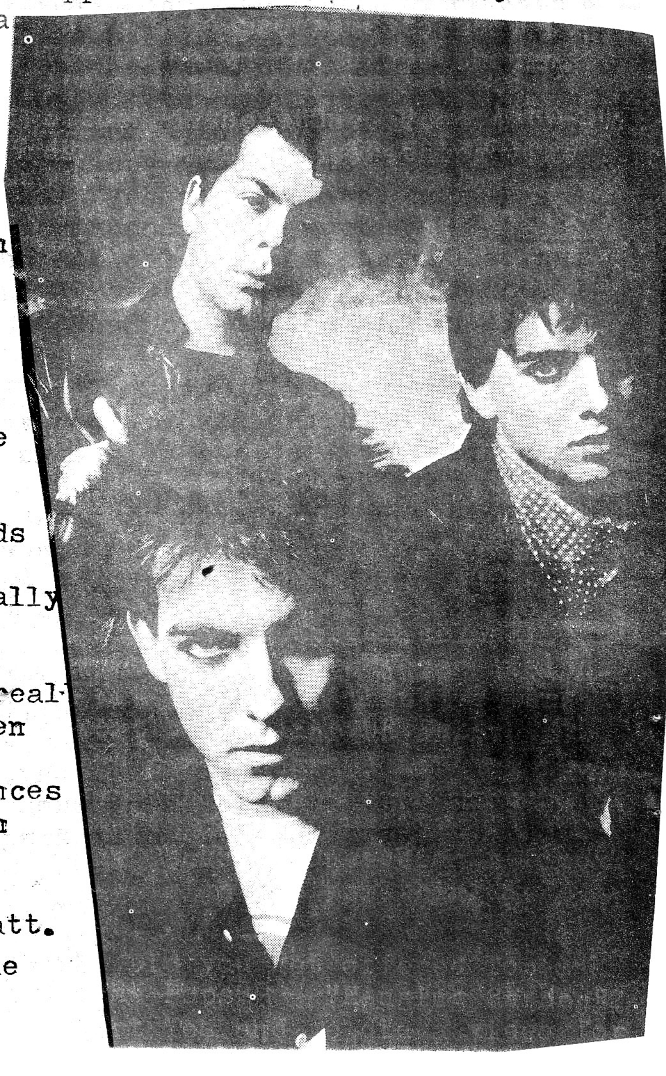
Robert It was worse than the others.When it started it was okay but when we went into Europe it was terrible.We even started cancelling dates for the first time because I was so fed up with it.There was just no feeling or emotion.

S.W. Even though the albums do well in the charts and the singles reasonably well The Cure are still a relatively unknown band does this bother you?

Robert No.I'd rather be that way.It's more advantageous but I doubt we'll continue at this level much longer.We'll either have a top twenty single or just stop releasing singles



S.W. Did you get offered Top of The Pops with "Hanging Garden"?
Robert Yes and we did a video for it but they phoned us up and said Elkie Brookes had to go on instead of us because she had the BBC orchestra so there were 52 of them and only three of us.
S.W. Has the video ever been shown on the tele?
Robert Not in this country as there's no programs to show it on. It was shown in Europe though.
S.W. Have you ever thought of doing a video like the Banshees"Once Upon A Time"?
Robert Actually we were talking about it yesterday.We might do something like that when we've done a few more videos.
S.W. Are you still happy with Fiction?
Robert Yes there okay.Polydor is an outlet for us so its the ideal situation.
S.W. What sort of music do you like now?
Robert The last record I thought was really good was New Order's"Temptation". I also like a bit of Simple Minds,the Bunnymen and the Banshees.
S.W. Do you see many bands yourself?
Robert No,the last group I saw were Zerra One but I don't go to many gigs.
S.W. Your views seem to have changed as to whether to have a support band or not.Why's this?
Robert Zerra One supported us on the last tour from the first date right into Europe,where we had some foreign bands supporting as well,but basically having a support is so much trouble.
S.W. What people like The Cure?
Robert Perhaps the same as New Order as we're despised by the press as well. Whereas I used to think about it,now I don't care who comes,anybody can listen. If someone who liked hard core punk came along to see us they'd think we were rubbish.It used to be different as we used to support bands like UK Subs. The new demos are more songs whereas"Pornography" was more a slab of noise.
S.W. Does it bother you when people keep on shouting for the old songs?
Robert I suppose it does but its up to them. It doesn't make much difference anyway.When people repeatedly shout for one song we sometimes play it really,really fast but then they just shout for something else.
S.W. I've read about your project with Steve Severin of the Banshees,has anything come of it?
Robert We've recorded a single and have arranged for a girl to sing it but as yet she hasn't.I play guitar and Severin plays bass.
S.W. What does it sound like?
Robert Its different and if anything it sounds like The Walker Brothers!
S.W. When the band are on stage you don't really talk to the audience yet your one of the friendliest bands off stage.Why's this?
Robert I can never think of anything to say really.When people talk to the audience in between songs they tend to patronise the audience or ingross themselves in it.I talk to the audiences in places like Sweden sometimes because I can say anything and they don't understand.
S.W. What are Simon And Lol doing?
Robert Laurence is working on a thing with Matt. at the moment.Simon played with Zerra One the



other night and is going to tour with them into Europe and Ireland.
S.W. Is Fiction going to bring out anything in the near future?
Robert Our single comes out in November but Chris is going to get up another record label. We feel though if anyone else comes on Fiction they'll just be classed as second best.
S.W. Finally what are your ambitions for the future?
Robert To have a number one single at Christmas.
THANX ROBERT

FANZINES

Any fanzine is worth buying! If people would take the trouble to get hold of a fanzine and not just go into a newsagents and buy the NME because all their mates do they would be a lot better off. Remember the people who write fanzines don't do it for a living they do them in their spare time with a lot of hard work going into each and every one of them. So buy some!

VAGUE 12(THEATRE OF HATE, UK DECAY, DANSE SOCIETY)
I met Tom at the Dominion once and that's how I got to know about Vague. Its one of the best fanzines around and offends just about every taste in music. Good interviews plus some intresing stuff from the early Ants days. 30p + p and P to Vague C/O, Butcombe, Castle St, Mere, Wiltshire.

NMX 24(VENDINO PACT, STUNT KITES, DUMB WAITERS)
Can't say much about NMX as they're printing SO What but seriously it covers local bands in depth and has got a really good piece on fanzines in as well. 35p + sae to NMX, 2c Barley Market Street, Tavistock, Devon.

ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION 2(CURE, SIOUXSIE, FUNCTION 3, 2 MINUTES OF HATE)
The second issue of a well thought out fanzine. Good articles on a variety of subjects well worth a read. 30p(I think) + sae to Kev, 33 Westbury Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 6RM.

TREES AND FLOWERS 7(VICE SQUAD, TEST TUBE BABIES, DAMNED, ADICTS)
Another one of the really good fanzines about. With this one you get a free Nuclear Socketts flexi disc which is good as well. Features not only big bands but little known ones as well. What about a thing on Nervous System Tox? Anyway its 40p+ large sae from me at the fanzine adress on the back page.

COOL NOTES 4(ANARCHY, SERIOUS DRINKING, APOCALYPSE)
One of the most varied music tastes I've seen and wont conform to any standards. Quite funny in places as well. 20p + sae to Richard Edwards, Flat 5, 166A Romford Road, London, E15 4LD

NEW PHENOMENA 1(CURE, NUCLEAR SOCKETTS, BAUHAUS, CLASSIX NOUVEAUX)
Brilliant, Fantastic, Amazing...I'm getting a bit carried away here. This might be slightly biased as I used to do New Phenomena but 20p + sae to me at the fanzine adress on the back page.

CRASH SMASH BASH TRASH 2(TROOPS OF TOMORROW, SNIDE REMARX, KOKANE GUNS)
A bit small but packs quite a lot of information on local bands in it. They did a feature on Nervous System in number 3 but I haven't received a copy as yet. 20p + sae to Crash Smash Bash Trash, 263 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex.

This is only a small number of the hundreds of fanzines that are about so OPEN YOUR EYES.

"and also the trees" are a four piece band from Worcestershire who are now a fully profesional outfit. They formed in late 1979, none of them having any experience in the music business before. Instead of rushing into gigging they waited until the time was right and this obviously paid off as they secured a support slot to the Cure at Loughborough University which was only their fourth gig(also being called back for an encore at this gig!). The Cure were very impressed with the band even at this early stage and invited them to play at their Christmas party at the Notre Dame Hall in London. Throughout 1981 the band played live extensively and in November went on tour with The Cure as support band playing places like Hammersmith Palais and the Brighton Dome. The tour went very well audience reaction wise but as the group were all still in full time jobs they had neither the time or knowhow to capatilise on this. Soon after the tour the Cure invited them to play at their Christmas party again this time at the Dial 9 club in London. Other groups the band have played with are Blurt And the Associates.

At the moment "and also the trees" are getting some good press around the Birmingham area. They recently headlined at the re-opening of the Fighting Cocks in Birmingham to the largest crowd in recent times. They did give me a few dates they're playing but by the time the fanzine comes out it will probably be too late so I didn't print them. A demo tape(reviewed below) is available from Graham Havas, 4 Church Close, Inkberrow, Worcester, WR7 4EA. The demo was recorded in Mike Hedges "Playground" 24 track studio in Camden Town. The tape was recorded at the expense of Mike Hedges. It was a good job that the recording was on the house(so to speak) otherwise it would have cost them £1000! The demo is available for just £1.00 from Graham.

<u>AND ALSO THE TREES-DEMO TAPE</u>

I've a feeling the group will always be compared with The Cure and Joy Division and although this may be true on occasions they are not just another Joy Division clone band. About the demo there's four tracks and the sound quality is excellent. (It should be at £1000). The first track "and also the trees" is intense and builds up to a dramatic climax as the music gets faster, it also has a great bass line. "and tease the tears" reminds me a bit of the Banshees and is one of the most powerfull

and haunting tracks I've heard for a long time and is the best track on the demo.Next is"out of the moving life of circles" which isn't as good as the others but still not too bad.Finally"So This Is Silence" has some good guitar work in and the vocals have just as much power and feeling as ever.To sum up"and also the trees" have definately got the conviction to go a long way,an excellent demo tape and hopefully a record release soon.

NERVOUS SYSTEM

"THE SITUATION MUST BE CHANGED" FROM "MILITANCY" by NERVOUS SYSTEM

I first got to know about Nervous System when they were called The Screaming Idles about a year ago.They didn't have a vocalist then and the demos John used to give me were good but it was really intesting hearing the songs form from just basic tunes into actual songs.Anyway the interview was done a few days after the second gig at Kingston(see gig reviews) at Fuzz's house.After the interview the band decided to split up for a month because they were running out of ideas but thankfully now they are back together.Nervous System are:

Antoni Adamiak-Vocals
John Bracher-bass
Allan Wellington-guitar
Andrew Duprey(Fuzz)-drums

THE INTERVIEW

S.W. When did the group first start?

Fuzz July'81.First it was just me and John.

Allan When I realised how bad they were I decided to join and when he(Antoni) saw how bad we were at a party he joined as well.

Fuzz Allan joined in September and Antoni in January.

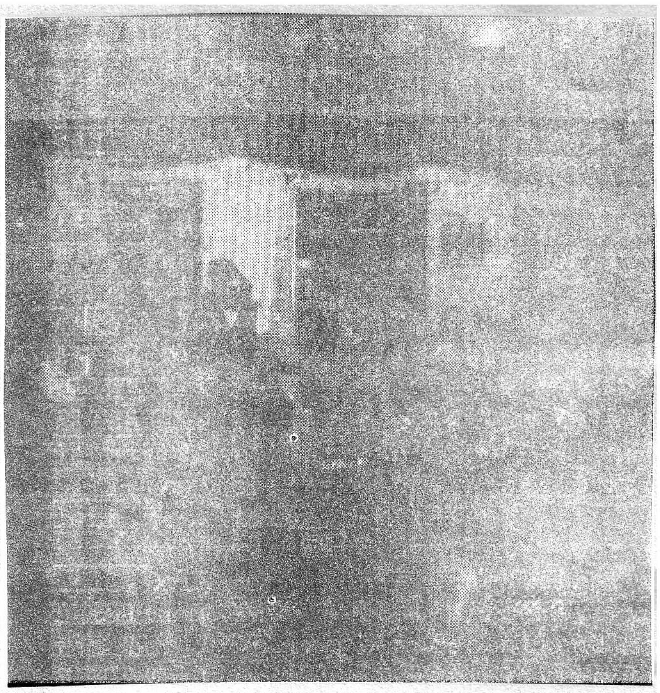
S.W. What groups gave you the inspiration to start?

Fuzz Total Chaos gave me the inspiration to start.

Antoni Any band you've heard is an

Pic by me at The Swan, Kingston 27-8-82

Left to Right: Allan, Antoni, Fuzz, John



at the Swan, kingston 27-8-82
Pic by me

influence.I wanted to join a band because I'd bought lots of records by bands like Discharge and Crass and I liked the idea of what they were saying but they weren't getting it completely right.There's no use in say swearing blindly and then thinking that's going to change the system.

Allan A band who influenced me has gotta be The Clash.The first album and"Complete Control".

S.W. What about you John?

John The Birthday Party.I didn't want to do that sort of music but they just inspired me to join a group.

Antoni When I joined I was really into groups like Killing Joke and Theatre Of Hate but nothing we do sounds like any of them.

S.W. Would you like to be classified as a punk band?

Antoni We're the true meaning of punk (laughs all round) as opposed to the Exploited on Top Of The Pops.

Fuzz I think Discharge are a punk band whereas we're more of a punk rock band.

Antoni If we were to get a record out on a label I wouldn't care what label it was on as long as it wasn't No Future or Crass because this means people would buy your records not because of you,because of the label you're on.

S.W. Who thought of the name Nervous System and why did you change it from the old one?

Fuzz I thought of the name.

Allan The Screaming Idles sounds like a John Peel band anyway.

Antoni I don't think you can classify Nervous System in a way.It doesn't sound like"Chaotic Discord" though does it.

Fuzz It still sounds like a punk band.

S.W. Do you get taken for a Killing Joke type band?

Antoni We wouldn't know because no one ever comes to any of our gigs.

S.W. Was the name because of the song by KJ though?

Fuzz Sort of,as I couldn't remember where I'd heard the name Nervous System before and it just stuck in my mind.

Antoni It goes well with some of our songs and our image.

S.W. Who writes the lyrics?

Antoni Me

S.W. What's your favourite song?

Fuzz"I Feel Dead"

Antoni I still like"Lies" but when it goes into the chorus it seems to fade out,but I like the beginning a lot.At the moment its"Isolation Walk" I think.

Allan Two really,"Isolation Walk" and"Awayday".

John I like"Awayday" and "Now She's Gone"

S.W. Why do you think Friday's gig went so badly?

John We got too complacent

Allan Yeah,we over estimated ourselves because the last one went so well.Doing"Now She's Gone" first is sort of like something you do after returning from a US tour so everyone was waiting for the fast ones.It was partly being complacent and partly band sound.

S.W. What do you prefer playing live or recording?

Allan Playing live when all our mates are pogoing is brilliant.

Antoni Well we haven't properly been into a studio so we can't really say at the moment.It might be a good laugh standing in the studio.

S.W. What influences you when you write?
Antoni A lot of my lyrics people think are depressing but there about the future so if people think the future is depressing its up to them.I've put my lyrice to what Killing Joke were doing with their first album.Without going on about them they seemed to have turned to occult because of Jaz and they just lost direction and purpose.So the lyrics aren't really like KJ's now but like the early lyrics about the nuclear age rather than we're going to cause a revolution etc.Its just about what happens outside.
S.W. If you had a chance to record a single what would you put on it?
Allan It would be"Awayday" on the A-side.We don't know about the other side though,but we'd like more than two tracks like an ep.
S.W. Have you done any new stuff since the demo you did for New Phenomena?
Antoni Yeah,we've done a lot of new stuff like"Isolation Walk" and "Now She's Gone" to name a few.
S.W. What sort of music do you like now?
Antoni Mainly punk stuff but it can be anything from Discharge to David Bowie. Nothing like The Exploited though.
S.W. Are you happy with Nervous System as it is now?

STRIKE(Adamiak)

Can you fulfill
Your ambition
When Reagan's hands
Are on his guns

Strike x 4

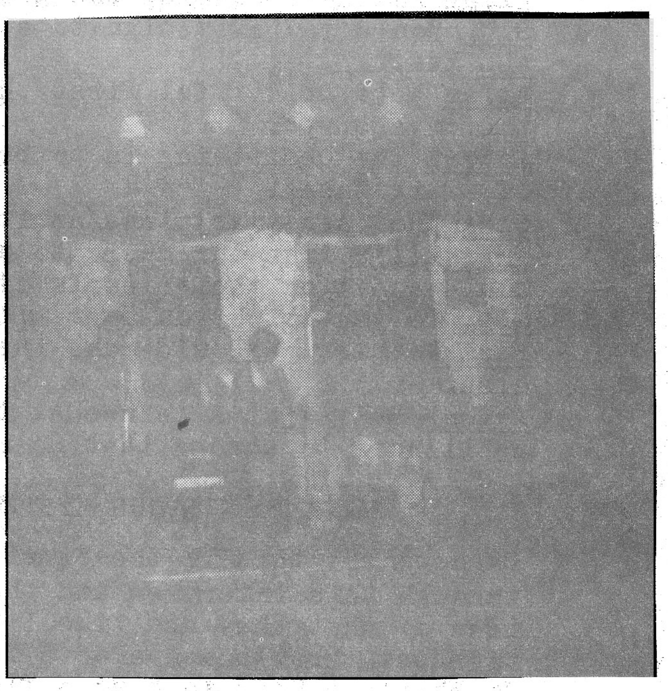
The Soviet Union
And America
Are leading us all
To the 3rd World War

Strike x 4

The Russians are coming
All underground
The Iron Lady hopes
No bodies can be found

Strike x 4

John Not really because each of us have got different ideas of things we can add to the group but we're too scared to say anything in case someone else doesn't like it.
S.W. Do you mind just playing to a punk audience?
Allan Well most punks are more enthuiastic.
S.W. What other local bands do you like?
Allan Captain Chaos and the Magic Roundabout.
Fuzz The Office are good too.
Antoni Total Control aren't that bad either if they get us other gigs.
S.W. Have you sent any demos to record companys or John Peel?
John I was planning to take the best tracks of the old demo and putting them on another tape with the best new stuff and sending it to John Peel.
Fuzz We'll send him a dirty video as well!!!
S.W. With songs like"Militancy" and "Terrorist" is this the views of the whole band or just the person who wrote it?
Antoni This is a problem we're having at the moment.Terrorist is one of Allan's songs,Militancy is one of John's and Lies is one of mine and they've all got a different view.Live John should be singing Militancy but we didn't have time to swap over on Friday.
Allan I think the band should have a common view and this is one of the things we lack.
Fuzz Militancy and Lies totally contradict each other because in Lies its saying there's No solution and No Future



Swan, Kingston 27-8-82
pic by me

JOY(Adamiak)
Its no use just sitting there
Feeling low,just despair
Make the most of what you got
Cos the one with the most aint got the lot
If you can't think for yourself
You'll be left up on the shelf
So lets speak out don't be quiet
There's joyful construction in a riot

Reality's here,the leaders revel
We're left to laugh at our own peril
But our laughs can be heard
We get the last laugh and the last word
Cos we all know the time will come
When judgement day is feared by some
Those who reveled in money and power
They'll face death's dark black hour

whereas in Militancy its saying"Militancy is what we need.We'll have to sort that out.

S.W. Have you got much of a following locally?

ALL Just the Southall Punks

Antoni Because we haven't had a chance to play anywhere apart from Kingston,we can't build up a following there because they just gob at us because we don't come from Kingston.

John There's a couple of people up north who like us as well(laughs all round as we recall the day Pam and Millie came down to meet the group at Shepherds Bush and John and Fuzz sneaked off without telling any of us where they were going.(Hello Pam and Millie)

S.W. Do you think you'll ever change your style of music to become successful?

John I think we will.

Allan Not to become successful but we might change our music which might become more accesable to other people.

Antoni Through progression like The Damned.

John If we ever split up we'd all go into a different sort of band probably.I'd go into a Joy Division type band.

Antoni I'd probably end up in a Discharge type band.

Fuzz I'd probably end up in a Dooleys type band!

Allan I think I'd just carry on as I am.

Fuzz I'd probably do some solo stuff and get a girl lead singer!

Antoni We all know why.He's the one who mentioned the dirty video.

Allan And he's running the groupies club.

S.W. Would you ever sign to a big record company?

ALL Yes.

Allan We'd be careful first though.We'd want control of things like the covers etc.

Antoni The best thing is to be on a small label but have the distribution of a big label.

S.W. What are your plans/ambitions for the future?

Antoni I'd like our music to get out to a wide range of people so it could question their ideals of life.

S.W. Do you think you ever will?

Fuzz I think we could make the indie charts I dunno about anything else.

Antoni We've got a chance.At the moment its not a full time band so we'll have to change that.So many bands succede,why should we fail?

THANX TO NERVOUS SYSTEM FOR THE INTERVIEW

Chances are this is the first you've heard of the group and hopefully through this interview and the lyrics I've printed it will give you an idea of what they are like.I feel that all they need is a bit of luck to break through and also a few more gigs.Anyway if I sell enough of So What I hope to have a flexi with the next one by Nervous System. Anybody who wants to find out more about the group send a blank tape to:John,61 Meadow Waye,Heston,Hounslow,Middlesex,TW5 9EY. and the band will record a demo for you.Also if anyone can get them a gig either get in touch with me through the fanzine or phone John on 01-570 5789

PUNK and DISORDERLY

As Cherry Red were kind enough to send me the further charges Lp I've decided to review both the albums,a bit out of date but who cares. Remember all the reviews are my opinion so don't take my word for it listen for yourself.

PUNK AND DISORDERLY

I've got one of the limited edition of 1000?on red vinyl but as I got it in Smiths either the record hasn't sold many or there's a few more about than 1000.Anyway

VICE SQUAD-LAST ROCKERS most of you have heard this before I expect, still as great as when I first heard it.Best thing Beki and co. have done.

ADICTS-STRAIGHTJACKET one of the early Adicts tracks and not on the Songs Of PraiseLP.Good stuff but although I like The Adicts I don't think they are as good as the press(Bushell) make them out to be(not their fault of course)

UK DECAY-FOR MY COUNTRY another old track.UKDK at their best.

DISORDER-COMPLETE DISORDER can't understand a word! just noise.

PETER AND THE TEST TUBE BABIES-BANNED FROM THE PUBS from the first EP. Humour wise they remind me a bit of the Damned.Really good(as you probably know)

DISRUPTORS-YOUNG OFFENDER pretty boring and basic throughout.

RED ALERT-IN BRITAIN ordinary and not different enough

BLITZ-SOMEONES GONNA DIE guitar sounds like a chainsaw and ruins the rest of the song.

DEAD KENNEDYS-KILL THE POOR yet another old song I keep expecting to run into Babylons Burning or Alternative Ulster.Its good but everyone knows that.

THE PARTISANS-POLICE STORY one of the very few hard core punk bands I quite like.Relevant lyrics and a forceful sound.

DEMOB-NO ROOM FOR YOU Not bad,saved by some good vocals

THE INSANE-LAST DAY terrible production the bass goes over the top of the lyrics and the guitar goes over both.

ABRASIVE WHEELS-ARMY SONG a lot of people seem to be making a fuss out of this.I can't really see why.

CHAOS UK-4 MINUTE WARNING okay,nothing special

OUTCASTS-MANIA I like the Outcasts a lot.This is quite good but not in the same class as Gangland Warfare,End of the Rising Sun etc.

GBH-RACE AGAINST TIME I can't make up my mind about GBH.I really liked No Survivors but this is not anything like as good as that.Not good enough to make me buy the album.

PUNK AND DISORDERLY-FURTHER CHARGES

GBH-SICK BOY one of their better numbers.

EXPELLED-DREAMING a girl lead singer and quite good.

THE INSANE-EL SALVADOR surprise of the album.From the terrible track on the first album this is brilliant.Great guitar,lyrics everything!

ONE WAY SYSTEM-STAB THE JUDGE can't see the point in the lyrics or the song really.

COURT MARTIAL-GOTTA GET OUT spoiled by Tenpole Tuder style singing

ACTION PACT-LONDON BOUNCERS one of the best groups around at the moment. Not as good as Suicide Bag,still good though.

SPOTTED ON A WALL IN HASTINGS

"PUNKS NOT DEAD, BUT LOOK WHOS KILLING IT"

THINK ABOUT IT!

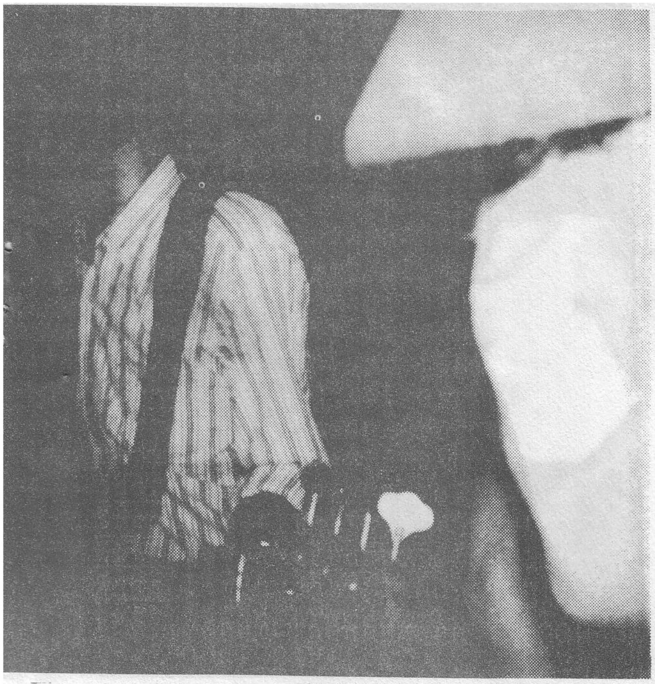
THE DARK-THE MASQUE typical just as I start to like a group they split up.Simply the best track on the album.They should have got across to a much wider audience.
VIOLATORS-GANGLAND Punks answer to Joy Division.Powering drums and really good.Definitely a bright future in store.
CHANNEL 3-I'VE GOT A GUN fast and ordinary
ABRASIVE WHEELS-VICIOUS CIRCLE bit better than Army Song but still nothing special.
THE ENEMY-FALLEN HERO Not bad with a catchy chorus.
RIOT/CLONE-DEATH TO HUMANITY These are the lot that played with Nervous System(see gig review).I didn't have much time for them but this is a bit better.Still very basic,some good drumming though.They also have donated all their royalties to the Animal Liberation Front.
THE WALL-HOBBY FOR A DAY I like this,its not perfect but a good attempt.Not played at a hundred miles an hour either.
DISORDER-MORE THAN FIGHTS I wont say it again.See the first album review,same again.
ERAZERHEAD-SHELLSHOCK I quite like the music but the vocals!!! Sounds like the Bay City Rollers!!
VICE SQUAD-RESURRECTION Vice Squad seem to be on every compilation album these days.One of the better tracks but why couldn't it have been one of their newer tracks?

Well that's about it.I like both the albums with the second one being better than the first.my only complaint being the amount of old material,but worth buying if you haven't got the various singles, albums etc and gave me an insight to a lot of groups I hadn't previously heard of.

RUTS DC

The following interview was done with Segs of Ruts DC at the Brixton Fair Deal on the 20th August 1982. I'm sorry if the interview seems rushed or badly thought out but it was done on the spur of the moment without any prior knowledge that I'd be doing it.Segs even had to get me a pen and the paper to write it down on!

S.W Lets start off with the predictable question, why did you decide to carry on after Malcolm died?
Segs Well really all three of us wanted to play together so it was really a joint decision.We were going to change the name and in a way I wish we had.
S.W. Why's that?
Segs We've been two years now losing the Ruts fans and hopefully gaining the Ruts DC fans,and now our set is a different format.The new album "Rhythm Collision" went well and after this tour we might progress from their.
S.W. Do you still do any of the old stuff in the set?
Segs Yes,quite a bit in fact,West One,SUS,It Was Cold plus Staring At the Rude Boys etc in the encore.Now we've got a decent stage set,and the people on stage changes from three to seven throughout the set.



Segs at Brixton, Fair Deal 20-8-82
pic. by me

We've got Dave Winthorp on sax and two girls who come on to do vocals and percussion on some songs. Really its an even mix of songs. I was talking to Paul the other day about doing Babylons Burning in the encore and we didn't know whether to or not but people seem to think Malcolm wrote the songs himself but he didn't write them all so we decided we should carry on doing some of the older stuff.

S.W. Do you still get people shouting for all the old songs?

Segs Yes, we used to quite a bit but now it seems to be wearing off a bit. If we play up north they seem to like the new stuff as much as the old. Now were more independent though.

S.W. What do you think of "New Punk"

Segs Mainly I think its a waste of time. Some of its okay but most bands seem to be just going back to 1976. I don't want to mention any names as slagging off bands is stupid. Punk was all about progression and doing what you want to do. That's why I think The Clash are okay as now they are playing disco and all that stuff but they're doing what they want to do.

S.W. Do you still get any of the original kids coming to the gigs?

Segs Well tonight its a bit like a private party as a lot of our old friends are here. The people who used to speak to us at gigs still come but the ones who just used to come and watch don't really. Malcolm died as we were going down and a lot of our old fans turned mod as this was the new trend. Now you've got the new romantics and there are so many trends but we've just carried on regardless.

S.W. Are you happy with what you're doing now?

Segs I'm happy with the album and single. At first it was going to be totally instrumental but I started writing a few lyrics and we took it from their.

S.W. Do you still see any of the bands you used to play with?

Segs We still see the Damned quite a bit.

S.W. How have the music press liked the new album?

Segs Well we got a great review in NME. I've never told anyone this before but on the new album cover it says "Dave ghost sax". Although Dave was in the studio with us he didn't actually play on the album and in Sounds the review was okay but he said the album was saved by Dave's sax playing which is typical of the music press.

S.W. Have you got any interviews with the press lined up or anything?

Segs Well Garry Bushell was going to come down here tonight but we wouldn't let him. I don't mind the bloke but he'd come down here do a good interview with us and then when I read the paper the next week he will have twisted all our words and slagged us off.

S.W. What sort of music do you like now?

Segs I like a lot of reggae, the Clash and groups I either stumble across of someone recommends to me. I don't go to any big gigs although I did see The Clash down here a few weeks ago.

S.W. What are you going to do after Rhythm Collision?

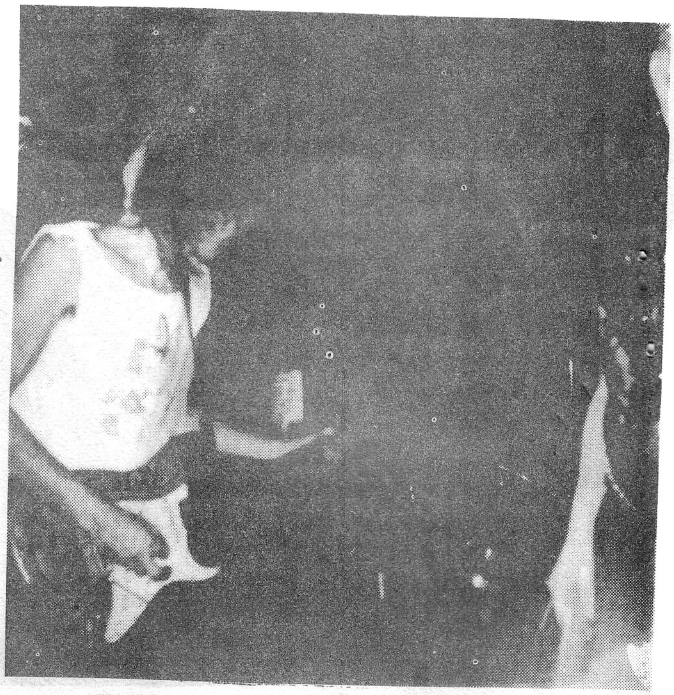
Segs I really like the direction of Rhythm Collision and I'm happy with the new band. Doing little clubs again is great and we don't really want to do a big tour. That's why we did the gigs with The Damned at the Lyceum. There were 3,000 punks their and it was sort of to finally

get rid of all the old Ruts fans but people have come up to us and said"I saw you at the Lyceum and you were great" I don't hate punks some are great,its just that some of the new ones are so narrow minded and I expect if you asked Siouxsie and Joe they would agree with me. We haven't really got any definite plans for the future. When we became famous before it was really boring and I was so disappointed. Like we did Top Of The Pops, it was a little studio, really grubby and I was really disappointed, but it was a good laugh and it does sell records.

S.W. Finally do you get many fanzines asking for interviews now.

Segs We get hardly any really, but I prefer talking to fanzines and I'd rather talk to you than Gary Bushell as you're doing it because you're intrested whereas Bushell is getting paid and would just slag me off. I'd rather four people see your fanzine interview than hundreds in Sounds or whatever.

THANX A LOT SEGS AND I THINK RUTS DC ARE ABOUT THE MOST FRIENDLIEST BAND I'VE INTERVIEWED



Paul Fox at Brixton, Fair Deal 20-8-82
Pic by me

GIG REVIEWS

THE CLASH-BRIXTON FAIR DEAL

I would have done a review for this but after queuing up for an hour and a half with hundreds of others we decided the Clash just weren't worth waiting any longer. See you again Joe, at the Wembley Arena perhaps?

Nervous System — The Swan, Kingston 24-7-82

There were two supports, Total Control and The Creatures(not Siouxsie) and Riot/Clone played a few numbers but I'd only come to see Nervous System so I missed virtually all three. For a first gig it was really good although Antoni was singing away and nothing much was coming out of the p.a. They started with the fast"Strike" and played most of the demo tape they did for New Phenomena with a few new ones(Forever Apart) I got"Rat Race" dedicated to me and its just as good live if not better. As the set went on the band got better and more together especially with"Lies". A thirty minute set followed by an encore of "Street Rockers" and a great version of Iggy Pop's"Loose". A great start and the future looks good for Nervous System.

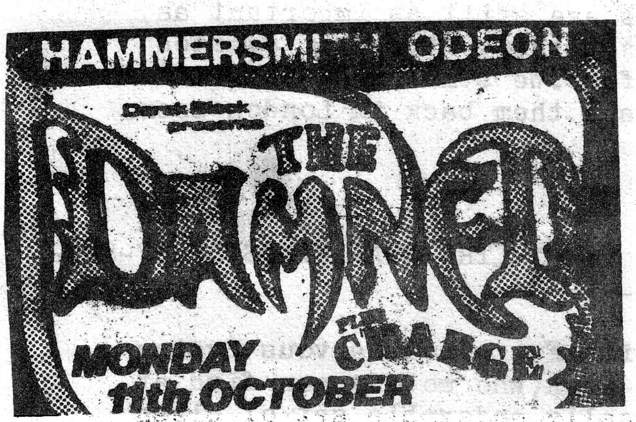
RUTS DC - BRIXTON, FAIR DEAL 20-8-82

Not knowing until it was too late that this was the Late Club we set off around seven o'clock and spent a couple of hours just wasting time around Victoria.Its funny how when you want the time to go quickly it never does but when you don't want it to it speeds up.Anyway,when we got to the Fair Deal first on were a reggae band called"Son Of Man" who I missed most of as I was doing the interview with Segs.Just before the Ruts came on "Termina Red"(I think that was the name) played a short set and I was quite impressed with there new wave style,pity you could hardly hear the vocals though.Anyway twelve o'clock(the Late Club!how people were supposed to get home on the train I'll never know) and Segs,Foxy and co.appeared.Straight into"West One" and then the new single"Whatever We Do".Some more new songs and then an amazingly strong version of"SUS" followed by"It Was Cold".A good mixture followed of new songs and the best tracks from"Animal Now"(one of the most underrated albums).After fourty minutes they finished only to return for an encore that was too good to be true.Firstly Paul took over the vocals for the sad"Love In Vein" with everyone helping by singing the"Don't want you in my arms no more" bit.Then it was"Staring At The Rude Boys" and"Babylons Burning" and finally"Jah War" with Foxy introducing the song by saying"Whether you are black or whether you are white,you must not arue you must not fight".The songs are still as important as when they were first written and I don't think I've ever sweated or enjoyed myself so much at a gig before.We still need Ruts DC as much as we ever did.Let's hope we see them back in London soon.

Nervous System -THE SWAN, KINGSTON 27-8-82

First on this time were"The Office" with Fuzz from Nervous System on drums his brother Slem on bass and Stan(who nobody can find at the moment) on vocals.They played a really enjoyable set of Clash covers("What's My Name, Hateful and Brand New Cadillac")one song of their own and a version of The Jams'"Non Stop Dancing".Really good for a band who only formed a week or so earlier.Next were Captain Chaos and the Magic Roundabout, and Total Control but I'm sad to say I missed both of them.Last on again were Nervous System and John had been telling me about this new song they had written called"Now She's Gone" and sure enough they started with it.Now to play a slow Joy Division type song(which is excellent when done properly) first at your second gig is one thing but to play it with all the guitars etc out of tune is going a bit too far.They never really recovered and went down like a brick in the ocean. Although it did get a bit better towards the end with another new song"Isolation Walk" and good versions of"Rat Race" and "Street Rockers" with yours truly on backing vocals for the latter. It wasn't really a very good gig but speaking to the band afterwards they knew what went wrong and a good way to learn is from your mistakes so lets have a few more gigs John + co.

After getting their about half seven we decided to go over the pub instead of watching the support band so I can't say what they were like. Anyway halftime and SLF came on and into"Love Of The Common People" which sounded a lot better live and surprisingly went down quite well.As we tried to make our way to the front we kept getting stopped by the bouncers and told to move back.What is the point?its bad enough having poxy seats but when you've got bouncers who wont let you enjoy yourself that's going too far(Jake said next time they'd do the Palais or the Lyceum(I hope so).Back to the gig,quite a bit of the new album was played and was just as good live.The older stuff seemed to go down better like"Tin Soldiers","wait And See" and"Gotta Getaway" but the highlights for me were the great"Johnny Was","The Only One","Roots Radicals Rockers Reggae" and a great encore of the Sweet's"Blockbuster" (Ali singing"We just haven't got a clue what to do" in full Irish accent was one of the funniest things I've seen for ages.A good gig and SLF using a good combination of old and new songs.



You don't half meet some funny people at a Damned gig.Well to cut a long story short their was a Japanese film crew filming in the foyer when they got soaked by a pint of beer from the balcony. A little while later a girl came and told us she'd just been chucked out of the balcony for throwing the pint of beer. When we asked her who threw her out the bloke who she described walked up beside us said"that was me" and attempted to throw her out completely.After pleading with him he finally let her stay and the last we saw of her she was getting pulled onto the stage by the Damned's bouncers and taken out off the side. Oh well from that strange tale back to the gig.Charge were the support group and didn't really impress me that much,they didn't play Fashion which I like a lot and all the songs sounded a bit similar.Anyway the Damned come on and Dave Vanian looks more like something out of a horror movie everytime I see him.Tonight they had three nuns in suspenders with them and the stage show was impressive to say the least.Overall I was a bit disappointed with the new stuff but Sensible funny as ever saved them.Highlights were"Wait For The Blackout" and a great version of"Happy Talk"at the end.Perhaps I just expected too much.

THAT'S ALL BUT THANX TO:
Robert Smith,Glynn Barber,Segs ,Nervous System,Cherry Red,Chrysalis, Dave,Mick,Phil and John B. for lifts to gigs and drinks,Graham Havas, and NMX fanzine for printing SO WHAT 1.

Nearly forgot,if there's anything you want to send,records,demos, fanzines,letters etc the address is:

ANDY,7 PINN CLOSE,COWLEY PEACHEY,NEAR UXBRIDGE,
MIDDLESEX,UB8 3TB.